

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus that establishes services that utilize policy-  
2 enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3 a first policy enforcement point (PEP) residing on a network element of the  
4 communications network that performs identification of policy-enabled resources  
5 that are available and allocates requested policy-enabled resources to services;

6 a first network resource controller (NRC) within a domain on the  
7 communications network that makes requests, from available policy-enabled  
8 resources, of any policy-enabled resources within a first domain required to  
9 establish a particular service, the requests from the available policy-enabled  
10 resources being separate from the identification of the policy-enabled resources; and

11 a first resource policy layer (RPL) that establishes the particular service and  
12 provisions the policy-enabled resources allocated to the particular service, said first  
13 resource policy layer including a first policy decision point (PDP), wherein:

14 | said first NRC acts as a trusted entity that initiates ~~an association a~~  
15 | dynamic, trusted, policy association between said first PEP and said first  
16 PDP,

17           said first PDP provides said first PEP with policies upon establishment  
18 of said dynamic, trusted, policy association between said first PEP and first  
19 PDP, and

20           when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain outside  
21 the first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second NRC in said  
22 second domain, which acts as the trusted entity that initiates ~~an~~ a dynamic,  
23 trusted, policy association between a second PEP in said second domain and  
24 said first PDP, said first PDP providing said second PEP with the policies  
25 upon establishment of said dynamic, trusted, policy association between said  
26 second PEP and said first PDP.

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2       2.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said  
3 first PEP comprises a plurality of virtual PEPs, each virtual PEP being associated  
4 to a respective service.

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2       3-5.   (Canceled)

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2       6.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the  
3 apparatus further comprises:

4           a second RPL associated with the second domain comprising the second PEP.

1 7. (Canceled)

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2 8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein resource  
3 capability information descriptors are used for resource discovery and policy  
4 provisioning.

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2 9. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize policy-  
3 enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

4 identifying, at a first policy enforcement point (PEP), policy-enabled  
5 resources within a first domain that are available and allocating requested policy-  
6 enabled resources to services;

7 requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network  
8 resource controller (NRC) any policy-enabled resources required to establish a  
9 particular service, the requesting step being separate from the identifying step;

10 establishing the particular service with a first resource policy layer (RPL);  
11 and

12 provisioning, to the established service, the policy-enabled resources allocated  
13 to the established service, said first resource policy layer including a first policy  
decision point (PDP), wherein:

14        said first NRC acts as a trusted entity that initiates ~~an association a~~  
15        dynamic, trusted, policy association between said first PEP and said first PDP,

16        said first PDP provides said first PEP with policies upon establishment of  
17        said dynamic, trusted, policy association between said first PEP and said first PDP,  
18        and

19        when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain outside the  
20        first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second NRC in said second  
21        domain, which acts as the trusted entity that initiates ~~an a dynamic, trusted, policy~~  
22        association between a second PEP in said second domain and said first PDP, said  
23        first PDP providing said second PEP with the policies upon establishment of said  
24        dynamic, trusted, policy association between said second PEP and said first PDP.

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1        10.        (Canceled)

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1        11.        (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein virtual  
2        PEPs of the first PEP are provisioned to provide resource services.

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1        12.        (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 11, wherein the  
2        virtual PEPs are provisioned to provide services in said second domain.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said first  
2 PEP and said second PEP are provisioned with the same service by said first PDP.

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1 14-16. (Canceled)

1 17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the first  
2 PEP and the second PEP are virtual PEPs created upon request for a particular  
3 service by one of the first NRC and the second NRC.

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1 18. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the first  
2 PEP and the second PEP are virtual PEPs created upon request for a particular  
3 service by one of the first NRC and the second NRC.

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1 19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus that establishes services that utilize  
2 policy-enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3 a first network resource controller (NRC) within a domain on the  
4 communications network, said first NRC requesting, from available policy-enabled  
5 resources, any policy-enabled resources required to establish a particular service;

6 a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) residing on a network element  
7 of the communications network that is created upon requesting the particular

8 service, said virtual PEP identifying policy-enabled resources that are available and  
9 allocating requested policy-enabled resources to the particular service;

10 a resource policy layer (RPL) that establishes the particular service and  
11 includes a policy decision point (PDP), wherein the virtual PEP is provided with  
12 information to contact the PDP of the RPL in order to provision the policy-enabled  
13 resources allocated to the particular service based upon an aggregated view of  
14 resources in the first NRC.

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2 20. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize policy-  
3 enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

4 requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network  
5 resource controller (NRC), any policy-enabled resources required to establish a  
6 particular service;

7 creating a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) upon requesting the  
8 particular service;

9 identifying, at the virtual PEP, policy-enabled resources that are available  
10 and allocating requested policy-enabled resources to the particular service;

11 providing the virtual PEP with information to contact a policy decision point  
(PDP) of a resource policy layer (RPL);

12            establishing the particular service with a first resource policy layer (RPL);  
13    and  
14            provisioning, to the established service, the policy-enabled resources allocated  
15    to the particular service based upon an aggregated view of resources in the first  
16    NRC.